

**VAHSA Board of Directors**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:00-1:00 pm**  
**Conference Call Meeting Minutes**

A called meeting of the Virginia Head Start Association Board of Directors was called to order by Shikee Franklin at 12:03 p.m.

- Julia Beglane called the roll. Members present: Dawn Ault, Angela Barnes, Isha Barrie, Julia Beglane, Fay Butcher, Kathy Channell, Ramona Fisher, Shikee Franklin, Jennifer Tonkin, Joyce Jones, Jackie Wake, Renita Strange, Kim Hill joined the meeting at 12:30 p.m.
- Members not present: Julie Green, Joe Lacey, Alison Noble, Kacey Dalton
- **Approval** of October 2019 Minutes – Julia Beglane explained that the minutes had been amended to address questions from the Secretary and a new copy had been sent out prior to the call. Shikee Franklin asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Kathy Channell made a motion to approve the revised minutes be approved as presented, Jennifer Tonkin second, motion carried unanimously.
- **President’s** Comments/Updates – Shikee Franklin – no formal update. Looking forward to Director conference calls next week.
- **Treasurer’s** Comments/Updates – Joe Lacey – not on the call. Dawn Ault gave an update. There was no action needed by the board at this time.
- **Executive Director’s** Comments/Updates - Dawn Ault
  - Federal minimum wage discussion - Dawn informed the members about discussion at the Federal level to amend Head Start eligibility requirements. On February 3rd, NHSA plans to send out a “message bill” which is a bill to address federal legislation with the intent to inform legislators that this is something to discuss and to follow in the coming year. On calls with NHSA, Dawn has been asked if VAHSA will support this discussion. Dawn responded that this must be a board discussion. The goal of this amendment is to increase Head Start eligibility to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL.) It is currently 100% FPL. The reason for this is that minimum wage is different all over the country. Example: As of July 1, 2019, Virginia just became \$8.00 per hour and California is \$15.00 per hour. There are several states with minimum wage in the range of \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour. This creates a problem for working poor who will no longer be eligible for Head Start. According to Tommy Sheridan, changing FPL is an arduous process. Therefore many state associations, led by the California Head Start Association, are recommending changing Head Start eligibility. They are recommending that 35% of participants may earn 200% of FPL or 90% of State Median Income, whichever is greater. They recommend 10% of participants may be of any income level with eligibility determined by local need or at-risk factors. Of course, factors like homelessness and foster children will always be considered. We do not have one economy in America, however Head Start eligibility requirements are the same throughout the country. NHSA is cautioning the state associations about what the opposition would say along with the concern that this bill would have unintended consequences, such as opening the door to Reauthorization while there is not bipartisan support and agreement. This could bring up issues around immigration and consideration of state coordination of early childhood programs. NHSA wants us to be aware of the complexity of what changing eligibility would involve, but there is no request to sign on to any legislative recommendation currently. Dawn is bringing this to the board as an FYI, not an action item. Dawn asked for comments. Isha Barrie expressed concern about anything that would bring further attention to the immigration issue and consideration of the public charge. Joyce Jones asked whether the changes to DRS are still on task. Dawn

responded that NHTSA wants to leave efforts with DRS as they currently are which is to be done as an amendment and not through Reauthorization.

- Dawn asked for guidance from the board regarding bringing the Parent Ambassadors to Richmond on Monday, 1/20. The Governor has issued a State of Emergency for Richmond in effect until Tuesday, 1/21 at 5:00 pm because a gun rights rally is scheduled for the day. After discussion many members of the board recommended that Dawn delay the trip by one day so that the ambassadors attend the Wednesday, 1/22 legislative sessions. Dawn explained that the ambassadors have legislative appointments scheduled on Wednesday and will see a legislative session with votes on the floor for Medicaid reimbursement for home visiting as part of their Wednesday activities.

Dawn also explained that the ambassadors will also visit Richmond on 2/17 for events that include their children as an early childhood advocacy day with Voices for Virginia's children.

- State legislation discussion – Dawn shared the PowerPoint that was presented on January 8, 2020, by Jenna Conway to Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) coordinating staff of the Virginia public school systems. Dawn explained that she was not invited to participate in this call, but she did learn about the presentation after the fact because she is a member of the Unified Policy Agenda Network with Voices for Virginia's Children. Emily Griffey provided this link with other information and Dawn watched it, pointing out that she more or less stumbled across this. Dawn cautioned that Head Start was not specifically included in the discussion and wants to make sure that the Head Start community knows what the VPI community is hearing. Dawn reviewed the slides with the members of the board and explained the three main points of the work being done in Virginia to support unification of the Early Childhood system.
  - Federal Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDGB5) renewal grant. \$33MM over 3 years, \$11MM per year. Goal: PDGB5 pilot style approach to ECE would be in all localities in Virginia by the end of the 3-year funding period.
  - State level legislation
  - Governor's budget adds \$94MM over the biennium to support these services.

Dawn continued to review the PowerPoint and referenced the attachment she sent for review prior to this board meeting which was created by NHTSA reviewing what each state in the country is doing around early childhood. This information shows that several states have further developed plans than where Virginia is currently, i.e. Oregon has been giving state funds directly to Head Start programs for years.

Dawn discussed the uniform quality measurement system being developed in Virginia, the relocation of Virginia Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) management and Child Care licensing to Dept. of Ed. (DOE). She explained that DOE will contract back subsidy coordination to Virginia DSS but that oversight and accountability will be at DOE. Head Start Collaboration office will also move to DOE by July 1, 2021 if the legislation is passed in the General Assembly this session. Regarding Professional Development and a Quality Workforce, Virginia state tuition would be waived for ECE Associates Degree based on income.

CLASS observations would occur in all ECE programs. Question from Dawn - Will HS monitoring cycle be in conjunction with the regulation and who pays for it? Shikee pointed out the VQI does CLASS and HS's are a part of that. She asked if this is a new CLASS requirement in conjunction with the VQI requirement. Dawn will bring these questions to the legislators.

VPI would be allowed to serve at-risk 3- and 4-year-old children and could be used in private settings. Dawn pointed out that Jenna Conway, Virginia's Chief School Readiness Officer, stated that this presentation was created to provide guidance for VPI providers to begin thinking and planning for the

May 15, 2020 application. She told VPI coordinators to start planning in January. The 3-year-olds are being phased in on a piloted basis.

Dawn shared that the Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) Head Start committee, led by Annette Lewis, had a conference call in December. One of the main recommendations that came out of the call was that the income eligibility criteria for VPI legislation should be amended to begin with families with income at or above 130% of FPL. Per Annette Lewis, Jenna Conway and Holly Coy, Deputy Secretary of Education, both agree to support this change. There is also language being added to emphasize state funds supplementing versus supplanting federal funds. The language also strengthens legislation to support participation of Head Start staff on the VPI state advisory committee. Shikee stated that she is glad that our concerns are being heard.

Dawn pointed out that per the PowerPoint there will be a letter provided to superintendents this month describing the proposed budget changes as well as current data describing children in need of services, for their planning purposes. She will be reaching out to Jenna Conway to ask that this information also be shared with local Head Start programs. We need this information to coordinate enrollment. Superintendents will also get guidance for adding 3-year-old children.

Dawn summarized the current situation with legislation because she wants to make sure that our board was aware that all of this is going on because if the proposed legislation passes, there will be significant impacts on Head Start.

- **Governance Committee** - \*Donna Buckland, Shikee Franklin, Fay Butcher
  - **No update provided.**
  
- **Conference / Scholarship Committee** - \*Jackie Wake, Julia Beglane, Angela Barnes, Julie Greene, Ramona Fisher, Alison Noble, Jennifer Tonkin
  - **No update provided.** Julia will set up a conference call with the NE Region to coordinate services.
  
- **Advocacy Committee** - \*Dawn Ault, Kacey Dalton, Kathy Channel, Joe Lacey
  - **No additional update provided beyond Dawn's previously mentioned updates.**
  
- **HSSCO Updates** – Dawn Ault – a Collaboration Office Director has been hired with the intention of starting January 27<sup>th</sup> pending approval by the Region III Head Start office. Dawn approves of the hire.
  
- **HAC and TTA** were not present for the call but had informed Dawn that there were no significant updates since our meeting last October.

Dawn asked if there were any last comments:

Fay Butcher told Dawn that the board would stand behind her in any decision she made about the Parent Ambassadors visit to Richmond based on real time events. Dawn stated that she appreciated that and would keep an eye on what was happening on Monday.

Isha Barrie noted that Virginia Family Services will be meeting with Jenna Conway in Richmond on Feb 3rd to discuss the opportunity to apply for PDGB5 funding.

Shikee asked for a motion to adjourn.

Fay Butcher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 p.m., Jennifer Tonkin second, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

- Next in-person meeting is **Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 6:00-9:00 pm at location TBD in Fredericksburg.**
  - Julia will let members know location once location has been secured.

*Donna Buckland*

5/12/2020

Donna Buckland, Secretary

Date